

IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly delete Claims 10, 17 and 18, without prejudice.

The following is a listing of the claims in accordance with the requirements of the PTO.

B, 1. (Currently Amended) A hardening protection composition in the form of a paste, semi-liquid or liquid for partial carburization of a metallic component, comprising a substance which forms boron glass and a magnesium-silicon compound, wherein the substance which forms boron glass and the magnesium-silicon compound are present in a weight ratio of 2:1 to 100:1.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Original) The hardening protection composition according to claim 1 wherein the substance which forms boron glass and the magnesium-silicon compound are present in a weight ratio of 5:1 to 15:1.

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Original) The hardening protection composition according to claim 1 wherein the substance which forms boron glass and the magnesium-silicon compound are present in a weight ratio of 10:1.

6. (Cancelled).

7. (Original) The hardening protection composition according to claim 1 wherein the magnesium-silicon compound is a magnesium silicate, selected from the group consisting of

magnesium orthosilicate ( $\text{Mg}_2\text{SiO}_4$ ), magnesium metasilicate ( $\text{MgSiO}_3$ ), magnesium trisilicate ( $\text{Mg}_2\text{Si}_3\text{O}_8$ ) and talc.

8. (Original) The hardening protection composition according to claim 1 wherein the magnesium-silicon compound is magnesium trisilicate.

9. (Previously Amended) The hardening protection composition according to claim 1 wherein the substance that forms boron glass is boric acid, boron oxide, alkali metal and/or alkaline earth metal borates.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Original) The hardening protection composition according to claim 9, comprising based on the total amount, 40-55 wt.% boron oxide, 3-6 wt.% magnesium trisilicate and 39-57 wt.% of an organic binder.

12. (Original) The hardening protection composition according to claim 11, comprising, based on the total amount, 45 wt.% boron oxide, 5 wt.% magnesium trisilicate and 50 wt.% of an organic binder.

13. (Original) The hardening protection composition according to claim 10, comprising, based on the total amount, 45 wt.% boron oxide, 5 wt.% magnesium trisilicate and 50 wt.% of an organic binder.

B<sub>1</sub>

14. (Previously Amended) A method for surface hardening of metal surface comprising applying to at least a portion of said surface a composition comprising a substance which forms boron glass and a magnesium-silicon compound in a weight ratio of 2:1 to 100:1, and thereafter subjecting said surface to a surface hardening treatment.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 14 wherein said surface hardening treatment is carburization at 900-980 °C.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 14 further comprising there being present in said composition an organic binder.

17. (Cancelled).

18. (Cancelled).

B<sub>1</sub>

